

I am writing to show my support for dropping the Morse code requirement. In addition to other countries already doing so, there is a serious lack of young talented HAMs on the HF bands which scares me personally. In the future, should there ever be a disaster that occurs; it scares me to think that because HAMs such as me that feel it is ridiculous to be forced to learn such an old mode of communication that we would not be there to help out. This requirement causes a severe shortage of HAMs that could help out on HF should such a horrible disaster ever occur.

To put it in a modern example, there is new technology such as APRS, IRLP, and WIRES etc. that is commonly used in VHF and UHF. It is not and should not ever be a requirement to learn these new modes to get your technician license. It is all about what you want to do with the hobby. In present times, Morse code is more of a hobby within a hobby that should not be forced on others just because it was a common mode of communication in the past. I compare this to the folks that like to preserve the old WWII equipment vs. buy a new advanced piece of equipment with modern technology. I would never expect them to give up their radios, but if manufacturers didn't make equipment more reliable and more available where would the hobby be now? We live in different times and this should be recognized in the US as it has in other countries and even our own military.

I fully appreciate the folks that have had to learn the code to get their HF privileges, but at some point you have to draw the line and do what it takes to keep the hobby progressing forward. It is my feeling that the hobby is moving backwards.

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